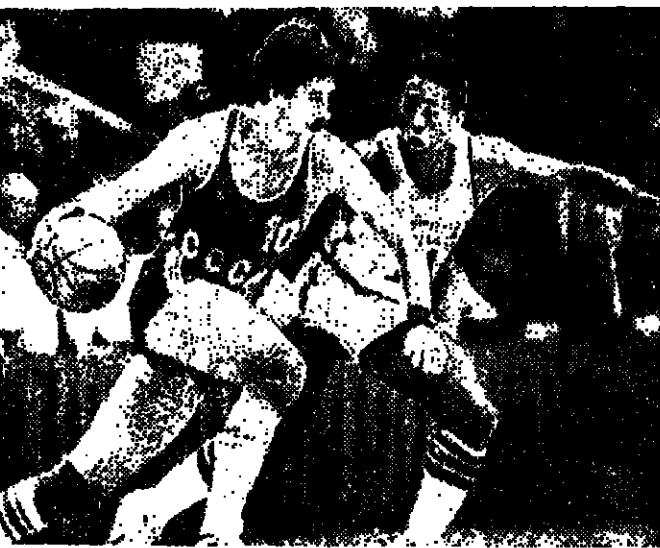


Completing its tour of the USA, the USSR basketball team defeated Iowa University, 78-68. As a result the Soviet team did brilliantly in the present tour, of 12 games it won nine and lost only three.

The play of our young team Soviet head coach Alexander Gornelsky told a TASS correspondent, got a high estimate of specialists and the American press. Its games were played to capacity crowds and were telecast. Our players, despite the successes, understood another thing: they have to further improve their technical and tactical skills and athletic shape. Of course, the basketball originators have not lowered their standards, but we, too, were not wasting our time. World champions Valera, Ikonitsky, Borisov, Sahonin, Jovish, proved their high reputation overseas, and Doryugin got into top gear by the end of the tour. Yuri Biryukov was very reliable and Tikhonenko was going from strength to strength. For the young the American tour was excellent schooling. Gornelsky stressed.

CONFIDENT PLAY IN BASKETBALL ORIGINATOR'S LAND

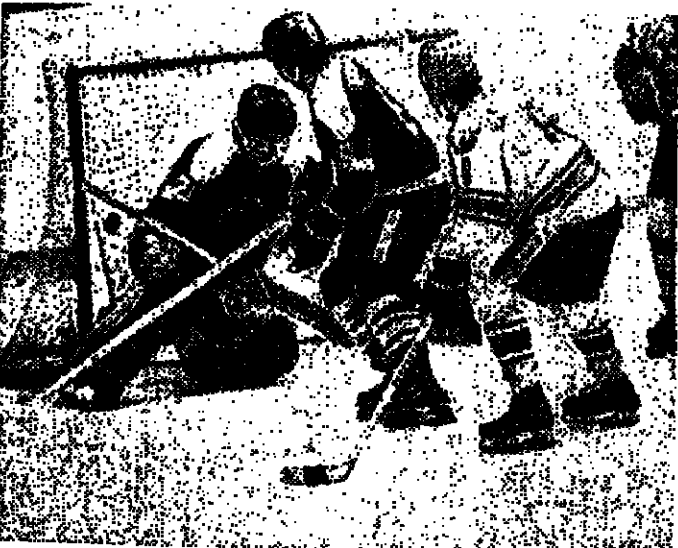


The Soviet Union's Valdis Valtera (10) drives the ball towards the basket against Kentucky's Dicky Beal during the first half of an exhibition game in Lexington. The Soviet team defeated Kentucky 81-68. Photo AP-TASS

ICE-HOCKEY NEWS

The second stage of the Czechoslovak championship is drawing to a close. Jihlava Dukla is in the lead with 32 points from 21 games. Five points behind is Ostrava TŽ Vitkovice.

One of the future opponents of the USSR club team, Montreal Canadiens, leads the NHL standings with 31 points from 21 games. Minnesota North Stars is third with 29 points.



Central Army Club all poised to net a goal in their recent 7-1 national championship victory over Gorky Torpedo. Photo by Yuri Tutov

Buta SINGH: we are grateful to the Soviet Union for its help in organizing Asiad

We will never forget the enormous help given us by our Soviet colleagues in organizing the 9th Asiad in Delhi, Indian Government Minister, Mr. Buta Singh, who leads the Asiad-92 Organizing Committee, told Alexei Serebriak, our special correspondent, covering the competition. Sport in India is young and naturally our Soviet friends have a far greater experience in organizing and staging major sporting fixtures.

Constant contact between Indian and Soviet sportsmen, experts and leaders is mutually beneficial. Experienced and highly qualified Soviet coaches helped our leading athletes prime for the 9th Asiad in several Olympic events.

The Games, in which young men and women from 33 countries participated, have had a tremendous impact on the whole of Asia, Singh stressed.

'CRYSTAL SKATE' COMPETITORS HAVE THEIR SIGHTS ON THE OLYMPICS

The Organizing Committee of the "Moskovskiy Novost" International Figure-Skating Competition has held the usual preliminary press conference attended by journalists from the national press, radio and TV at the newspaper's editorial offices. The competition is due to open on December 2 at the Luzhki Palace of Sport.

Alexander Zaitsev, twice Olympic champion, turned deputy head of the winter sports department of the USSR Sports Committee, said that the main prize, the "Crystal Skate", will be contested by 10 nations — Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, West Germany, Finland, the GDR, Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Holland, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia. A total of ten pairs, 16 dancing duos, 18 women and 17 men, will compete in the singles.

Alexander BUTSEVIN



Moscow Spartak and Spanish Valencia in action.

rajevo (Yugoslavia) at home 6-1. Thus Anderlecht has practically ensured entry into the UEFA Cup competition quarterfinals. The return game will be held on December 8.

Vladimir McMillin

BOLTIK IN THE FINAL

The Swedish club Boltik has entered the final of the bandy European Winners Cup. Boltik is the holder of this prized trophy. In the final the Swedes will meet with the winner of the game between Krasnoyarsk Yanisel, and OLS (Oulu, Finland). The first

game of these teams, held in October on the artificial ice area of the covered stadium of the Moscow sports complex Olimpiyskiy, brought success to the Finnish hockey players, 3-1. The return game will be held on December 12.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL APPEAL

Helsinki. The World Peace Council is calling for mass rallies and demonstrations in Europe and throughout the world to demand that NATO should revoke its decision to deploy new American medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe, said the WPC Chairman Ramesh Chandra, address at a press conference. The WPC is planning to hold a day of action against new nuclear missiles in Europe between 1 and 15 December.

The international public resolve condemns the new measures announced by President Reagan to stop up the arms race and believes, quite justifiably, that the arms race is a threat to world peace.

(Continued on page 2)



The girl of this Salvadoran woman who knows nothing of the fate of her three missing children is plain for all to see. Every day brings added sadness and death in the people of El Salvador, as punitive troops trained and armed by Washington murder children, women and old people. The genocide unleashed at American bidding in this Central American country is aimed at propping up the dictatorship regime there. No amount of terror and repression, however, will make the people of El Salvador give up their fight for freedom.

FACTS and EVENTS

● The Republic of Maldives has rejected the suggestion that its southern island can be used for "rest and recreation" by American troops stationed at the US base on Diego Garcia Island. This has been made known in an official declaration by the country's President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

● Washington has issued an official threat to Tokyo that it will lodge a complaint with the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) against Japan's protectionist policy. This is reported in the "Yomiuri" newspaper, citing sources in the Japanese ministry for agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

CHURCHMEN MEET IN MOSCOW

Moscow recently hosted a meeting of members of the Presidium of the World Conference, "Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life from the Nuclear Threat". The Conference took place last May in the Soviet capital. The meeting, held in line with an appropriate Conference decision, drew churchmen from 13 countries of the five continents practicing Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam. The Conference praised the results of the World Conference, noting the great interest shown in it by the world public.

A resolution adopted by the meeting calls for strong action to promote nuclear disarmament through halting and banning nuclear arms tests in all areas as well as freezing the Soviet and American thermonuclear arsenals.

The participants of the meeting also issued an appeal to the leaders of the USSR and of the United States urging them to achieve an early successful conclusion to the current Geneva Soviet-American talks on halting nuclear arms in Europe and on limiting and reducing strategic armaments.

GALA ON ICE BACK WITH US AGAIN

● The editors of "Moscow News", which is published in five languages, and the USSR Figure-Skating Federation extend a warm welcome to contestants and guests at the 17th "Moskovskiy Novost" (Moscow News) International Figure-Skating Competition.

● The competition includes pair skating, dancing and female and male single skating events. The main prize, "The Crystal Skate", will be contested by participants from 14 countries from December 2 through 8 at the Luzhki Palace of Sport.

● The editors will award six "Crystal Skates" made at the Dyakovo crystal factory to a design by Mikhail Kizlov.

● A special editors' prize, "Moskovskiy Novost-82", will go to the most beautiful and charming skater to be named by journalists and fans.

● As of November 20 about 200 Soviet and foreign journalists have applied to be accredited at the press centre.

● While competing for the "Crystal Skate" award figure skaters will at the same time be vying for the right to participate in the world and European championships.

● The competition will end December 8, with demonstration performances by the best skaters.

Journalists have dubbed the "Moscow News" tournament a "tournament of hopes and discoveries", and "the minor world championship". On more than one occasion "Crystal Skates" winners and prize-holders at the world, European and Olympic championships, such as the Soviet skaters, have been crowned at the "Moscow News" tournament.

On the eve of the competition the editors asked leading Soviet coaches, whose protégés

TWO HUNDRED DAYS IN SPACE



Cosmonauts Anatoly Borozov and Valentin Lebedev have entered the 29th week of their stay aboard the Salyut-7 station. They have now been in space for more than 200 days and are continuing their astrophysical, technological and medico-biological experiments.

With their RT-4M telescope, the cosmonauts have studied the X-ray characteristics of Sirius. The orientation and stabilization of the station necessary to perform the study were carried out by means of Salyut-7's control system.

They have also completed an experiment in the Kristall installation to obtain a semiconductor single crystal of cadmium selenide in conditions of microgravity.

At the present time, the two cosmonauts are continuing their experiments to study the pattern of growth of the tissue of wheat and peas as part of their biological research programme to be carried out on board the station.

Days of Byelorussia have opened at the jubilee "In a Single Family" show, at the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements.

The republic of Byelorussia stretches for 650 kilometers from the country's western borders to the east. It is the sixth largest Soviet republic in terms of territory (207,500 sq km) and the fifth largest at 9,900,000 in terms of population.

Byelorussia was particularly hard hit in World War II, when the Nazis burnt and razed to the ground 209 cities and regional centres, and 9,200 villages. One in every four people died — it took thirty years after the war for the pre-war population level to be reached, and nearly 3,000,000 people were left homeless.

The entire country helped Byelorussia in its post-war revival: new cities were built as well as major industrial projects; today many cities in the republic such as Svetlogorsk, Novopolotsk, and Zhodino, etc., are less than 25 years old.

At present the republic boasts over a hundred indus-

tries; it meets over half the nation's need in potassium fertilizer, a quarter of its need in fine fibre, over 21 per cent of its need in chemical fibre and 14 per cent of its need in tractors.

The upwards of a thousand products displayed at the show are exported to a hundred-plus nations. Among them is the renowned Belarus tractor now in operation in 80 countries; 60 nations buy over a hundred different machine-tool models, produced in Byelorussia ranging from simple drilling machines to automatic lines; while 100,000 BelAZ and MAZ trucks have been bought by countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.



Displayed at the show are various handicrafts and items made of flax, in both traditional and modern design. Many of the items are made by the women of the republic's 40,000 amateur folk groups provide for visitors to the exhibition.

Photo by Gennady Dubitskiy

SOVIET GREETING TO PLO LEADERS

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet have sent a message to PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat, in which they stress that the Soviet people admire the courage and steadfastness of the Palestinian people and confirm their unfailing support for the latter's just struggle for national rights.

"Moscow News" and "MN Information" gives you a full idea of life in the Soviet Union for the week. Subscription to "Moscow News" and "MN Information" can be taken out with the following firms.

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ATTENTION, SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD

DEAR READERS,

"MN Information" comes out on Tuesdays and Saturdays and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and in the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies. Nothing short of the material carried in the editions of both

the 1st of 1982

UN: space should be weapon free

New York. In the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, a delegation composed of 115 countries has voted in favour of a resolution which stresses that the international community must take further effective measures to prevent the arms race spilling over into outer space. The Committee is asked to examine this issue as a top priority.

It was the Soviet Union who steered UN attention towards this problem. At the previous session of the UN General Assembly the Soviet delegation proposed that a treaty be concluded to ban the deployment of weapons of any type in space. This idea was supported by an absolute majority of UN members, yet the world com-

munity failed to get down to practical work on the issue because of the obstructionist position adopted by the United States.

As was noted in the First Committee, the reasons prompting Washington to foil these efforts are easy to understand. The present administration has issued a special directive for the military "development" of space around the earth. The Pentagon, in its turn, regards space as a potential theatre of military operations.

This is why the United States cast the only vote in the First Committee against the resolution to prevent the further militarization of space.



The latest in landing strips.

Drawing by Yuri Ivanov

PALESTINIAN LEADERS MEET IN SYRIA

Damascus. A meeting of the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization has been held here. The situation on the occupied territories as well as ways of solving the Middle East problem were discussed.

Commenting on the so-called "Reagan plan" for a Middle East settlement, the PLO Council stressed that the plan ignored the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination or to a state of their own, without which a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is impossible.

Speaking after the meeting, the Chairman of the Palestine

National Council (PNC), Khalid al-Fahum, said that the Palestinian people continued to regard the PLO as their sole legitimate representative upholding their inalienable national rights. Commenting on the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, he said that this act of banditry was a consequence of the separate Camp David deal, and that it would have been impossible without all-round support from Washington. The PNC Chairman said he was in favour of Egypt returning to the Arab fold. But in order to do this Egypt must renounce the Camp David course, he said.

ISRAEL CONTINUES ITS AGGRESSION

New York. In defiance to protests from the world public, the Zionist leadership in Israel is stepping up its annexation of the occupied Arab lands.

According to the American Manufacturers Institute, the occupation authorities have requisitioned up to 60 per cent of all territory on the West Bank where the construction of new, as well as the expansion of existing paramilitary settlements, military installations, roads, etc., goes on non-stop.

Driving the Palestinian Arabs from these lands, on which several generations of their ancestors have lived and worked, the invaders justify their actions by saying that the former have no documentary proof of their ownership of these tracts.

The Palestinians are forced to leave their native places and go elsewhere because of other illegal measures introduced by the Israelis.

MITTERRAND FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS

Paris. In an interview to the "Le Monde" newspaper, the French President Francois Mitterrand noted the historical continuity in Franco-Soviet relations and said he was in favour of their further development. In contrast, any form of economic blockade against Russia, he said, and France will not stop trading with her. I will be loyal to the commitments undertaken by our allies with reference to the so-called strategic goods, but I will not have the sale of better to Russia being described as "strategic".

The President stressed the importance of the disarmament talks and the need to achieve progress, noting that the Soviet Union has a legitimate right to be concerned over its security.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL APPEAL

(Continued from page 1)

fiably, that this will lead to a serious deterioration in the international situation, Ronek Chandra stressed.

The American administration wants to deploy new MX ballistic missiles. It exerts pressure on its NATO allies in order to have new American nuclear medium-range missiles deployed in Europe, Chandra continued, and, at the same time, uses every pretext to evade serious discussion of the items negotiated at the talks on limiting nuclear armaments in Europe. The Cruise missiles and Pershing-2a are first-strike weapons, and, therefore, their deployment on the countries will disrupt the approximate parity in strategic forces between the USSR and the United States.

OBITUARY



Our readers must have grown accustomed to this portrait, Oleg Anichkin, one of the most eminent Soviet political observers, was a regular contributor on this page. He passed away last Saturday. He died quite suddenly, at 52.

He was an excellent TASS correspondent and worked for long periods in the USA, Britain, Australia — countries he valued and loved. He was an objective and profound researcher, a well-known and fine expert on the intricacies of political maneuvering. His best articles have been the ones devoted to the Soviet-American relations. He was a journalist with a post-war background of good political principles and any act of goodwill in politics. He was an active champion of the Soviet peace movement.

For us he was not only a colleague, but a good counsellor and friend. The editors express their deep condolences to his widow, daughter and son who are left behind.

FACTS AND EVENTS

There are 4,508 million people living on the Earth according to mid-1981 data published in a recent UN report. The most populated continent is Asia — with 2,625 million people, or almost 60 per cent of the world population, reports Reuters.

The Israeli authorities have decided to open the border with Lebanon to their commercial establishments, traders, and tourists.

Turkey has sustained considerable losses because of trade restrictions imposed by the Common Market, said Kemal Karlik, Turkish Minister of Trade. The EEC, of which Turkey is an associate member, places obstacles to the sale in EEC countries of a number of major Turkish exports including textiles.

Government

reshuffle in Ghana

Accra. The Provisional National Defence Council in Ghana has devised a programme for the economic revival of the country which it is hoped will provide a speedy solution of the economic difficulties it faces. It was stated by J. Rawlings, the Council's Chairman, speaking on Radio Accra, he said the Council had also prepared a project for the reorganisation of the structure to manage affairs of state.

Rawlings pointed out that the authorities are investigating the circumstances of the attempted coup on November 21. He emphasized the need for a purge of rank-and-file members of the government of social organizations to rid of people who, under the false screen of revolutionary slogans, are in effect engaged in subversive activities. The attempted coup to overthrow the power representing the people of the broadest popular masses is a crime against the Ghanaian people, he said.

FREE PRESS UNDER FIRE

Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam has sharp criticism for the way the Western press distort events in the developing nations. Addressing the Information and the media seminar, sponsored by a UNESCO commission, he stressed that Western newsmen possessed in developing countries "exaggerate their efforts on gathering rumours, gossip and various other fabrications. He urged newsmen from developing nations not to be deceived by Western propaganda, which, though very vocal in its support of a 'free press', is in fact pursuing mercenary goals.

OF INTEREST

Executives

frightened of mice
British psychologist Gerald Henderson recently decided to



V. Korzun, noted Soviet scientist and deputy head of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control (in the photo addressing the audience), was recently presented with an International Association of Hydrological Sciences award at the Paris UNESCO headquarters for his notable contribution to the science of water. Many of Korzun's works which have been published in translation are of fundamental importance in the field.

Photo by O. Katusyov (TASS)

Science and technology

FLIES

ARE BEST SHOT

Engineers from the American firm of Marlin Paul decided that all previous methods of exterminating flies were utterly inefficient. They have therefore marketed a plastic air pistol which emits suction darts tied to the pistol by a long string. If the user scores a direct hit the fly will stick to the sucker. Although such pistols have been manufactured before — as toys for little children — an efficient fly swatter has the added advantage of being a fun pastime. It costs three dollars.

parallel to the screen to be subsequently deflected towards it by the voltage applied to it and to a transparent electrode placed opposite the screen. The image is viewed through the transparent electrode.

MUSICAL TELEPHONE

Musical telephones are the latest craze in Canada. They have an in-built miniature recorder with a changeable cassette which can play eight tunes. The telephone's popularity is hardly surprising: it is, after all, much more pleasant to be summoned to the phone by one's favourite tune instead of by shrill buzzers.

EATING

AND APPENDICITIS

There has been a drastic drop in the number of appendix operations in Britain. The appendix becomes inflamed due to low cellulose fibre content in food. This is thought to be due to the fact that recently the British have been eating more vegetables, fruit and brown bread.

SUEZ CANAL 130 YEARS LATER

Cairo. The 130-year-old Suez Canal is now one of the critical factors in the Egyptian economy and a major source of its export earnings. Its 1982 revenues are expected to amount to 1,100 million dollars. Over a hundred nations use this international waterway which has been

widened and deepened many times since it was first built. The first stage of reconstruction work on the canal came to an end two years ago, making it possible for fully loaded oil tankers with a displacement of up to 150,000 tonnes to pass through it.

proved that men are not all that braver than the fat sex. To that end he secretly took himself to a meeting of the board of a noted British company and



Photo BTA-TASS

released 12 mice into the room. The results were beyond his wildest expectations, as half those present took to their heels in terror.

This is neither a road accident, of which there are many on American roads, or a clip from a Hollywood thriller. It is, believe it or not, "a work of art". It was doubtless the dangerous road accident caused by drunk driving that inspired the pseudo-sculpture from the District of Columbia in their creation of this masterpiece which bears the ominous title, "I told you to keep to the left, Harold".

Photo AP-TASS

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

WHO DISLIKES THE UN?

The United States seeks in all ways possible to diminish the role of the United Nations Organization, of its General Assembly as well as that of the Security Council. This is the conclusion come to by the Soviet NEW TIMES weekly in its analysis of Washington's policy towards the UN.

Touching upon the negative American stand which prevented the adoption at the United Nations of the resolution on the termination of the Israeli aggression, the weekly writes: Threatening to suspend its activities at the United Nations and to stop giving it financial support, the American government seeks to turn the clock backwards. The United States is ready to disregard the interests of the whole world for the sake of "solidarity" with a state which systematically violates the letter and spirit of the UN Charter and ignores UN decisions.

World development raises many questions and these should be resolved via negotiation rather than by blackmail and confrontation. All attempts to hinder the normal functioning of the United Nations are fraught with unforeseen and dangerous consequences. Nobody should forget this, the weekly stresses.

BUSH'S AFRICAN WALKAROUND

The African countries are continuing the struggle to strengthen their independence and for complete political and economic liberation. They reject the American attempts to force on the Africans imperialist and racist prescriptions for the resolution of the problems of southern Africa. Alexander Serbin writes in PRAVDA. He is commenting on the African tour made by US Vice-President George Bush with the prime aim of finding a solution to the Namibian problem.

In all the countries visited by Bush, he tried to impose the American-South African viewpoint which boils down to the contention that the gaining of independence by the Namibian people depends directly on the withdrawal of Cuban military personnel from Angola. The very idea of equating the un-justified occupation of Namibia carried out over many years by the South African racist with the presence of Cuban troops on Angolan soil is utterly absurd. The latter were invited to Angola by the legitimate government of that country in full conformity with the UN Charter, to protect Angola's independence from encroachments of the infamous racists and their henchmen. The absurdity of the equation must have been realized in Washington, even before the Vice-President's tour.

MILITARY THREAT TO THE WORLD

The unprecedented scale in the deployment and storage of conventional arms which is accompanied by mounting arms exports is highly dangerous to peace on this planet, KRAS-NOVAYA ZVEZDA points out. The United States accounts for nearly 45 per cent of the world trade in arms, with the other NATO nations accounting for over 20 per cent. In full correspondence with its plans for global and regional domination, America concentrates on pouring weapons into countries with reactionary regimes, to help crush the national liberation movements there and to further boost American military presence in areas far away from its borders.

The piling-up by imperialism, and by the United States in particular, of all possible methods of manipulation and destruction is aimed at the attainment of military superiority. Though such a goal is unrealistic, it is also exceedingly perilous for it threatens peace and international security, the paper emphasizes.

NEEDED: A POLICY

OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS

Commenting on relations between this country and Japan, the ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY journal notes that there is a growing realization in Japan that freezing political contacts with the USSR is more than anything else damaging to the interests of Japan itself. One indication of this is the Japanese initiative concerning a resumption of meetings between the Japanese and Soviet foreign ministers and of practice of holding working consultations between the ministries of the two countries.

At present, Soviet-Japanese relations are going through the most complicated period in their history. Quite a few political and public business leaders in Japan are trying to shift the blame for this on the Soviet Union. There is convincing evidence, however, that this country has invariably been in favour of its relations with its Far Eastern neighbour being developed on the basis of equality and mutually beneficial cooperation, and in the spirit of genuine good-neighbourliness. The Soviet people do not want any signs or reversals in relations with Japan. This policy was confirmed at the 88th CPSU Congress and finds its concrete embodiment in the practical actions undertaken by the Soviet Union.

THE PENTAGON TO USE LIE DETECTORS

Washington. The US Defense Department intends to introduce the lie detector to establish the loyalty of its staff.

According to "The Washington Post", the Pentagon leaders have drawn up a directive which provides for the use of lie detectors for the most diverse purposes, from selecting prospective employees to detecting those already in the service suspected of undesirable contacts with the press.

Up to now, the Pentagon only had authority to use the lie detector in the investigation of serious crimes, and then only on the condition that their employees agreed to its use.

VIEWPOINT

Zone of peace in the Indian Ocean: those for and those against

The 37th session of the UN General Assembly in New York is currently the scene of consultations between various groups of nations — members of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean — on a draft resolution concerning the procedure for an international conference on the Indian Ocean. The decision to convene such a conference in the first half of 1983 was approved by the General Assembly last year; the present discussion centres around the adoption of a resolution specifying that the conference will open in Colombo on May 9, 1983, will last three weeks, and will be viewed as the first step towards the implementation of the 1971 UN Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. In addition, the Committee is to be assigned the task of preparatory work for the conference, including the framing of a preliminary agenda, organizational matters, determining the level of representation, etc.

All the above elements are to be found in a businesslike and constructive draft resolution tabled by the non-aligned nations at a session of the Committee held shortly before the current session of the UN As-

ssembly opened. This document, which already has the support of a clear majority of Committee members, and, in the view of political commentators in New York, would also enjoy support in the General Assembly, were it to be submitted for consideration by that body, will be countered by a patently nihilistic draft to be submitted by adversaries of the peace zone project, mainly the United States and some of its allies. The draft proposes that the convocation of the conference be postponed for an indefinite period of time. In this way they attempt to block the implementation of a resolution they themselves participated on.

Cashing in on the fact that Committee resolutions on the Indian Ocean have to be passed unanimously, the American-led "minority dictatorship" charges that any mention in the resolution of a date for the conference is totally unacceptable, arguing that the "existing political climate in the Indian Ocean region is not favourable to holding a conference. But modern history has examples galore of international conferences being held and international agreements signed despite the fact that the situation in

one or other part of the world remained tense. The delegate of Sri Lanka, the country which launched the idea of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, justly observed in the course of the general debate that not one international conference or talks have ever been delayed until such a time as circumstances border on the ideal.

It is worth remembering in this respect that once before the United States foiled a UN General Assembly decision to hold a conference in 1981 by quoting the same "argument". But why should America, so vocal in its support for a zone of peace, in fact be overtly subverting the attainment of this goal? The present American administration, wedded as it is to stopping American rule on various parts of the globe, is relying on the strategic exploitation of the Indian Ocean. Under its 1980-83 Defense Guidance, the Pentagon aims to build a network of military bases in the Indian Ocean deploying the rapid deployment force there, and what is more, on a permanent basis.

Formally, this force is to become a special task unit beginning January 1, 1983, but even

today it has 230 thousand men and officers and is to double its ranks in the next few months, with its range of operations involving some 20 nations. According to its chief, General Robert Kingston, commander of rapid deployment force, will be responsible for American military activity in the Persian Gulf and South-West Asia. What use has the United States for a "force" nearly 500,000-strong in the region? UN delegates of the non-aligned countries provided the answer to this question when they dubbed the above unit a "rapid intervention force". In view of the fact that it is being assigned to a permanent base, three aircraft carriers with nuclear weapons as well as cover and antisubmarine ships, it is clear that for the American military the Indian Ocean region also represents a new forward-based weapons area which threatens the Soviet Union from the south. The masters of the White House would like to see the Indian Ocean turned into an "American lake" rather than into a zone of peace and good-neighbourly relations.

The enemies of the zone of peace project have started a base and perimeter game in the UN. Pretending they are searching for a compromise decision, while in actual fact they aim at splitting the non-aligned countries, they attempt to substitute the Committee's existing mandate by proposing some regional conferences on the Indian Ocean, promising in the same breath, more economic aid and "equal economic cooperation". The non-aligned nations, however, are well aware that now is the time to decide whether or not the Indian Ocean is to become a zone of peace.

Round the Soviet Union

THE POLEX-SOUTH-82 EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME OF THE "PROFESSOR ZUBOV" RESEARCH SHIP, WHICH WAS THE FIRST OF THE SOVIET ANTARCTIC FLEET OF 28 VESSELS TO LEAVE LENINGRAD FOR THE SOUTH SEAS. The programme provides for the study of the dynamics of water masses; their chemical composition and physical properties; heat balance; and the relation of the ocean to the atmospheric processes which have a considerable influence on the weather and climate.

PASSENGER TRAINS ARE NOW STOPPING AT THE TAI-GA STATION OF KHANI FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF A 130-KM-LONG LEG OF THE BAIKAL-AMUR RAILWAY, STARTING IN UST-YUKUYK. The first train to stop at Khani carried builders from Tynda.

THE SUMMER NAVIGATION SEASON HAS COME TO AN END ALONG THE RIVERS CONNECTING THE PORT OF KANDALAKSHA, BEYOND THE POLAR CIRCLE IN THE NORTH-WEST OF THE USSR, TO THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR INDUSTRIAL CENTRES. 1.2 million tonnes of metallurgical products manufactured by enterprises in the Murmansk Region were carried along the Kandalaksha-Cherepovets waterway. This is considerably more than the figure for last year.

THE TRADITIONAL THEATRE WEEK FOR SCHOOL-CHILDREN IS TAKING PLACE IN LATVIA. Children from all districts of the republic have been able to see their favourite musical fairy tale, ballet "Laila's Magic Bird", by the Latvian composer, A. Zilinskis. The State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre as well as the other theatres of the republic have been given over to children for the duration of the festival. The repertoire includes plays by popular children's writers.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

Academician Guri Marchuk, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and the Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, writes in TSD about a very important aspect of the scientific and technological revolution — that of increased human responsibility. The realization of the targets set by our rapidly developing science and technology depends on never before on human factors. It yesterday, comparatively little depended on a worker, the present-day operation of a complex process in a decisive factor in the smooth operation of many subsequent stages of production and dependent industries. Human error at a certain stage now has to be corrected many times over at successive stages of production. It is a characteristic of our time that people are becoming involved in the controlling of increasingly sophisticated, powerful and expensive technology. Economists believe that in 1990-2000 an average worker engaged in agriculture will have at his disposal production facilities worth 25 to 30 thousand roubles. In such conditions human factors, including standards of skills, the desire to work well, will be of paramount importance. This is why we need to achieve an optimal balance between a man's abilities and his responsibility in the conditions of modern production. Only if harmony exists between a man and his working environment will we be able to achieve maximum gains from scientific and technological progress.

OCEAN STUDIES IN THE FUTURE

During the next two decades research ships will continue to be the main tool for tapping the ocean, writes Andrei Monin, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and Director of the P. P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology in MOSKOVSKY KOSMOCENTR. Such ships will be fully equipped with powerful measuring and other instruments, as well as sophisticated computers.



SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL

Two plates hang over the entrance to an unusual educational establishment in Maly Paladievsky Lane, in the centre of Moscow. They read as follows: "Secondary School No. 122" and "Boys' Choir". Pupils at this ten-year secondary school, which was started 25 years ago, receive special tuition in music in addition to a secondary education.

They are taught choral singing and the basics of music, as well as how to play various musical instruments. The school's choir, which has a repertoire of Russian and foreign classics as well as works by Soviet composers has given performances in many Soviet cities. Though they may not become professional musicians, the ex-pupils of Secondary School No. 122 will retain an interest in music all their lives.

Georgi STRELNIKOV

A bridge over the Kama River

A motor vehicle bridge recently built over the Kama River was named the Oktyabrsky (October). Regular traffic has started here over the Nizhnyaya Kama hydropower station dam, currently under construction. The bridge has connected all the transport thoroughfares crossing the developing lower Kama territorial production complex. The city of Brezhnev (formerly Naberezhnyye Chelny) and other Kama River cities and

towns are now linked directly to the major highways for Kazan, Izhevsk, Ufa, and Ulyanovsk.

IMPROVED IRRIGATION FOR KAZAKHSTAN

Irrigation workers in the Kazakhstan Ural region are concentrating their efforts on multiplying the natural riches of Lake Sakryl and on turning the arid steppes around it into a zone of guaranteed high herb crops. A

large estuary irrigation network is now in operation there.

Water from the Volga is fed via canals and the Maly Uzen River to Sakryl from the trunk irrigation network of the neighbouring Saratov Region. The lake has come to life again, and the level of water in it is back to normal. The spawning areas of valuable commercial fish and the nesting grounds for wild-fowl have been stabilized.

Estuary irrigation systems now cover over 250,000 hectares in the Kazakhstan Ural region. Half the fodder for farm cattle produced in Kazakhstan comes from this region.

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST

The construction has begun at the Zalyv shlyudnykh in Kuch (the Crimean Region in the Ukraine) of the country's first nuclear LASH ship with ice-breaking capability.

The ship will have a displacement of over 60,000 tonnes and its hull, special cells and deck space will be able to accommodate 74 fighters of 370 tonnes each or over 1,300 personnel, while housing operations will take less than 24 hours. The 40,000 hp engine will get the ship going at speeds of up to 20 knots.

The computer which forms an integral part of the vessel's navigation system will enable it to avoid collision with other ships and help pinpoint its position in the worst of weather.

It will only spend three months working in the Arctic, and the rest of the year is winter. The crew will be provided with appropriate living conditions.

The ship will be able to negotiate ice fields and work tandem with other icebreakers.

KURPSAI HEP STATION IN OPERATION

Industrial load has been connected to the last — fourth — phase of the Kurpsai HEP station in Kirghizia.

When it starts to generate 800 thousand kW of electricity which is its designed capacity it will increase the amount of power produced in Kirghizia by nearly one-third. The new power produced in Kirghizia will irrigate many hectares of fields in Kirghizia and Uzbekistan.

Completing the construction of the Kurpsai HEP station, the hydraulic builders have started to move some of their teams to the building site of the Tashkumyr HEP station, the final stage in the cascade of HEP stations on the Naryn River.

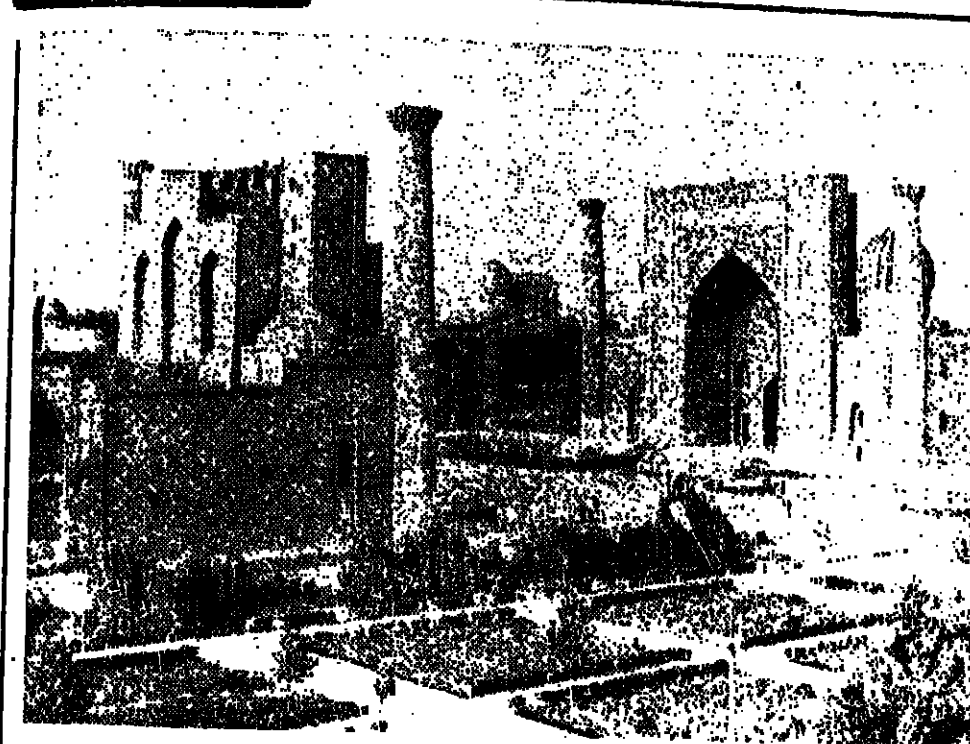
The programme focuses primarily on the cheap Kansk-Achinsk coals.

In addition, within the framework of the programme ways will be studied of channelling cheap Siberian energy to the European part of the country. This could either be achieved by pumping synthetic oil via pipelines, or by enriched coal, or electricity, the professor believes.

THE KEY TO LOVE IS UNDERSTANDING

Such is the opinion of teacher A. Belenkaya. The key to love is everyday life, and it goes without saying that one should prepare for family life in advance. The most difficult problem is psychological compatibility. Not only does one have to get to know and understand one's spouse better, one also has to come to know oneself. Though we may think that we know ourselves well, it sometimes happens that in new conditions or at times of stress, character traits come to the fore of whose existence we were totally unaware. In marriage, for example, we turn out for just as we are as a person of complacency. And there are thousands of other examples. One could cite the amount of time spent together with one's spouse, the amount of activities or interests one has in common. This is the last which both parties have to undergo. And it is very important to realize in advance what the shortcomings of our spouse can be reconciled to and which not. It is unwise to think well, once I get married I will instantly transform him (her). For in reality it turns out that one's loved one is not amenable to "remaking". It would appear that the main secret of compatibility, Belenkaya continues — the secret of "we" lies in the fact that we have to strive to understand and adjust to each other. If the loved one has over-estimated his own importance, it is important to help him overcome this. To carefully change the "personality" of the chosen one to please oneself is impossible. And even if such cases do occur, they only prove the general rule, Belenkaya concludes.

Places to visit



REGISTAN

Visitors to Samarkand are now able to see the Registan, a Central Asian architectural masterpiece of world fame dating back to the Middle Ages, which has been restored to its full glory. In 1922, restorers succeeded in straightening the leaning eastern minaret of the madrasah of Ulugh Beg, part of the Registan ensemble. This was the first operation of its kind and it excited comment all over the world. Not long ago restorers righted the western minaret, weighing a thousand tonnes. The work was carried out under the guidance of a group of scientists from Moscow and Tashkent. Now Registan ensemble can be seen in its former proportions for the layers of soil which had accumulated in the square in front of the buildings have been removed. A quarter of a million tonnes of earth had to be carted away. An ancient ceramic pipe aqueduct was discovered underneath the debris. As a result of the restoration work the Registan ensemble with its portals, onion-shaped domes and minarets, minarets have regained their true architectural proportions, and the decorative details of the palaces have been made even more expressive.

Some other architectural monuments in Samarkand have also been restored. Tiles and terra cotta glaze once more from the facades and interiors of buildings, from minarets and cupolas and from the giant Shir Doh dome. Restorers Khosro Munirov, Abdulkayum Gafurov, and Tahir Dzhafarov were guided in their work on these buildings by the original drawings left by ancient masters. The interior of the cupolas of the Gur-Amir and the madrasah of Tilakart has again been decorated with gold as in the days of yore — the gold was donated by the USSR State Bank.

India-Latvia—exchange of information on education

The Soviet experience in secondary education is very useful to us, a TASS correspondent was told by Bede Kalla, Minister of Education for the State of Rajasthan, in India, when on a visit to Latvia, one of the Soviet constituent republics in the Baltic area, at the invitation of the Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, to study the Latvian teacher training system.

He commented on the high standards of education and training of teachers in the republic and on the first-class equipment with which they are provided. The minister was particularly interested in the work being carried out under the guidance of Latvia's Academy of Sciences to create teaching aids in the national language.

Speaking about the value of mutual contacts, Bede Kalla stressed that the teaching of Hindi at the Latvian State University and the fact that the people of Latvia were able to read the classics and modern authors of India in translation, did a lot to bring the two countries closer together.

What I have seen here will be of great help to us in improving our education system, the Indian minister said in conclusion.

DIAGNOSED BY RUBIN

The Georgian ophthalmological research centre has designed a computer named Rubin, which helps examine a large number of patients in a short time and with sufficient accuracy so that the ailment is discovered at an early stage and the character determined.

The new method of express diagnosis is based upon the registration of heat radiation by the patient's body, manifested and affected body areas having different temperatures. Temporal measurements are analysed by the computer having a "medical intelligence". The Rubin computer is capable of examining as many as two hundred people a shift, registering in the process 10 thousand points on the examined body areas. This method can be employed on any kind of a patient's condition.

In the near future Rubin will be installed in a special but remote areas of the country.

NORTHERN HEALTH RESORTS FOR MINERS

Year-round seawater baths have now become available for miners at the Arctic Valkumskii. A preventive treatment health centre has been built for them at a Chukotka village on the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

Other health centres of the same type have been opened at the Arctic villages of Bilibino and Tulin and at the Andreyevskaya and Beringovskaya coal mines. More than four thousand people employed and living in the north can improve their health here without taking leave from work.

Doctors supervise physiotherapy, water treatment and mud bath courses. Medicinal mud is brought by air from the northern resort of Talaya and cockpits — from the Trans-Carpathians.

The average cost of a stay at such centres is 160 roubles, but the miners pay almost six times less than this. The investment in health pays back handsomely by cutting down absenteeism and improving the health of those who develop the natural wealth of the North.

OF INTEREST

EUROPEAN BISON PROTECTING DOMESTIC COWS

An unusual guard appeared at the dairy farm of the Valtutin collective farm in the Ukrainian Chernopogor Region. It was a watchful bison.

He joined the bullock calves that were grazing, fixed to their ropes. They were scared or flurried by the wood giant was not aggressive. He grazed peacefully nearby, occupied food from man and followed the herd to the waterhole. When winter approached the bison went with the domestic animals to the farm and found a favourable place near the entrance to the cowshed.

Thirteen bison were brought to the region for breeding. There are nineteen now. The collective farm "guard" — a young bison who was brought from the Crimea, quite recently, must not have sensed a dispute with the herd leader and joined the domestic animals.

VIEWPOINT

Secondary school in the USSR

Valeria PRUT

Today, full secondary education in this country is received by 99.4 per cent of young people, which means that it has become genuinely universal. It is hard to overestimate the social significance of this fact. Let us take a look at some of the main aspects.

First, the general educational level among the 15 constituent republics has become practically equal, whereas in the recent past it varied widely. While the average number of persons in this country with a complete higher and secondary education is 833 persons per a thousand employed in the economy, in Uzbekistan, a former colonial outlying area of the Russian Empire, this figure is 875. In Turkmenia, it stands at 852. In Georgia 877, in Latvia 821, and 819 in Estonia.

Second, the gap between the level of education of young people in towns and in the countryside has been bridged. Although statistics say that the countryside lags behind, with 734 educated people per thousand employed in the national economy against 880 in town, this is the result of including the older generations in the figures.

Third, the level of education among the children of workers and the children of the intelligentsia is practically equal.

The leading role in providing secondary education belongs to the ten-year secondary school which turns out three quarters of all those who receive a secondary school certificate. A secondary education may also be gained at vocational and technical schools, which accept children who have completed the first eight forms of secondary education. They train students for jobs and give them a secondary education. Another channel is the secondary technical colleges which train specialists for jobs at the intermediate level between workers and management. Although in recent years the prestige of the vocational schools has been growing quickly, the secondary schools continue to be in the lead.

As for the content of the educational system, it is being restructured once again. The curricula in mathematics, Russian and foreign languages, physics have been tested. The new curricula are relieved of overcomplicated material, the academically cut manner of explanation has been simplified, and facts and details of secondary importance have been dropped. At present, children in Soviet schools spend less time in learning for jobs. Virtually new curricula have been devised for music and drawing lessons to make them suit the aim of developing a more harmonious personality. Much more attention is given to optional subjects.

However, this is only the beginning of a new stage in the modernization of the educational process. Mikhail Prakhov, the USSR Minister of Secondary Education, comments: "The problem of the content of the educational system is a permanent concern. It is not a single curriculum, even if it were the best possible, we would be taking a step back, we would be going back to the beginning of the century. We must continue to concentrate on the basic scientifically sound aspects of natural and social development. This will be corrected by the time."

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Handwritten text in the right margin: "The first is 1.16"

ENTERTAINMENT



Joe Porrait. Theatre and cinema actor Anny Romashin with a photo of his pet setter.



Russian Bath (Oleg Yefremov and Oleg Tabakov in the film, "Shine, Shine, My Star").



One man — three faces. Theatre and cinema actor Igor Ledogorov.

PHOTOS REFLECTING IRONY AND WARMTH

The first one-man show by photographer, Valery Nisanov, has taken place at the exhibition hall of the Moscow Committee of Graphic Artists (28 Malaya Gruzinskaya St.).

For about fifteen years Nisanov, who is a free-lance photographer, has been hard at work on his photographic portraits of film makers—actors, directors

and other people involved in the world of cinema.

Valery has selected his favourite works for the show. The series devoted to his friend, the actor and song-writer Vladimir Vysotsky, for example, who died young; and studies of actors Roman Bykov, Nikolai Plotnikov and Boris Khmelnitsky. Though photography is often described as

a cold art—the distinguishing feature of Nisanov's photos is their warmth. There is an element of discovery about these works, which tell us more about the human character. Others express a well-intended irony which is typical of the photographer.

Vladislav ZAPOROZHCHENKO

First performance of Haydn opera

The first performance of "L'incontro improvviso", the opera by the outstanding Austrian composer, J. Haydn, has taken place at the Moscow Chamber Musical Theatre. This is the first time this opera has been staged anywhere in the world.

This work once admired by Haydn's contemporaries was for a long time considered lost, said the opera's producer and chief director of the theatre, Boris Pokrovsky. But several years ago a yellow morocco silver-engraved case was found at the Leningrad Saltikov-Shchedrin public library. It contained

sheets of paper covered with notes, one of them bearing the heading "L'incontro improvviso. Opera". The libretto in Italian was also there.

This was a priceless find. The opera which was only ever given once performance—in 1775—is, like all Haydn's creations, permeated in a joyful attitude towards life and is distinguished by its bright images and folk themes.

The Moscow Chamber Musical Theatre's revival of the opera has been timed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth which is being observed all over the world in accordance with a UNESCO decision. It is sung by Pokrovsky's graduates at the musical drama department of the State Institute of Dramatic Art.

A forum of progressive cinema documentalists

Leningrad's biggest cinema, the Capitol, recently was the venue for the 25th jubilee international festival of documentaries and shorts for cinema and TV.

Included in the competition and information section of the festival developed to world progressive cinema publicists, held under the motto, "Films of the World—for Peace in the World", were around 270 entries from over 50 countries, as well as West Berlin, the UN and UNESCO.

The Soviet film, "We are not giving up—We are marching on", a touching story about an international orphanage in Havana organized fifty years ago—was awarded a special prize by the jury. The film by the Soviet producer I. Svachkova, "When Fogs of Lies Disappear", with an honorary prize awarded by the International Association of Film Critics. It exposes the policy of the present American administration bent on a limitless arms race.



A concert to mark this country's 60th anniversary at the Soviet Union was given recently at the All-Union Composers Club in Moscow. The musical ensembles which took part came from different regions of Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, and the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic. The traditional folk songs and dances they performed received a warm welcome from the audience. In the photo an ensemble from the Orel Region (Central Russia). Photo by V. Akhlanov

New organ for Kaliningrad

A new organ made by Czechoslovak specialists was heard for the first time recently at the concert hall of organ music, in Kaliningrad. The Kaliningrad organ affords practically unlimited possibilities for organists to play works by composers of all epochs and styles ranging from the majestic polyphony of Bach and Handel to music by modern authors.

Various types of hard coniferous wood, such as silver fir, fir, pine, and ebony were used in its construction, as well as in lead, and copper. Kaliningrad's new organ, which is regarded as one of the biggest in the world, has 3,300 pipes of different diameter and size ranging from five millimetres in breadth to five metres in length. It weighs more than twenty tonnes.

OLD RUSSIAN RECORDS ON DISPLAY

The House of Culture at the Aprelevka Records Factory, the biggest in this country, has opened a museum illustrating the factory's history. The exhibits on display tell the story of the record industry in this country. The first Russian records were released in September 1910 at the Aprelevka station near Moscow. Today, these first releases weighing nearly a pound can be seen at the museum.

Among the items on display are the first gramophones, photographs of scientists whose names have come down to us in

the history of record-making and portraits of Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Chaliapin, and Maxim Gorky who early this century made recordings of their voices. The history at Aprelevka reflects this country's history in music, prose and poetry. Songs dating back to the times of the Civil War, and to the first five-year plans, as well as melodies of pre-war times. The factory continued to release songs even during World War II. In its 70-year history, the Aprelevka factory has produced more than one and a half thousand million records.

LIBRARY OF AZERBAIJAN LITERATURE

The best specimens of oral folk art of the Azerbaijan people are included in the first volume of a series devoted to Azerbaijan literature, published by the Elm (Science) Publishers. The series is in two parts: essays Editor-in-Chief and writer, Mirza Ibrahimov. The 20 volumes to be devoted to Azerbaijan classical literature span the period between the 4th and the

20th century. They will include immortal works by Khagani, Nizami, Nesimi, Mehmed and other writers and will be illustrated by early miniatures. The second part of the series (in 30 volumes) will be devoted to leading works by Azerbaijan Soviet writers—in other words it will represent an artistic chronicle of our time.

WHAT'S ON!

November 30-December 3

THEATRES

Kremlin Palace of Congresses (Kremlin). 30 — Tchaikovsky, "Swan Lake" (ballet). 1 — Prokofiev, "War and Peace" (opera). 3 — Divertissement.

Bolshe Theatre (Sverdlov Sq). 30 — Puccini, "Tosca" (opera). 1 — Shchedrin, "The Sea Gull" (ballet). 2 — Tchaikovsky, "The Queen of Spades" (opera). 3 — Handel, "Giulio Cesare" (opera).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St.). 1 — Zhubanova, "Moscow Behind Us" (opera). 2 — Tchaikovsky, "The Snow Maiden" (ballet). 3 — Shchedrin, "Not Love Alone" (opera).

Opera Theatre (8 Pushkinskaya St.). 30, Dec. 2 — Kalman, "The Gypsy Princess". 3 — Strauss, "Die Fledermaus".

FILMS

In Old Rhythms (Leningrad Studio, USSR).

A comedy-thriller based on the work of the Soviet millio.

Cinema: "Novorossia" (47/24 Tsesaraya Kuzkova St.). Metro Kurakya.

Mephistopheles, 2 parts (Hungary).

A film by Istvan Szabo about a Hamburg actor.

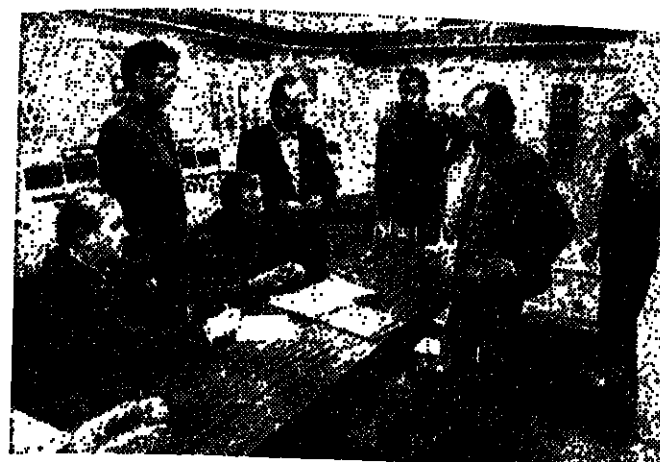
Cinema: "Vatsocha" (5/9 Sverdlov - Chernogryazskaya St.). Metro Lermontovskaya.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition Hall (65 Vavilov St.). Works by L. Ryabov, M. Sidorov and B. Fuks. On display are items of monumental art, drawings and paintings. Daily, except Tuesday, noon to 7 p.m. Metro Universitet. Tram 26.

Central Art Club (in the foyer) (9 Pushkinskaya St.). Paintings by G. Belogorodov-Valeberg. Daily, except Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

BUSINESS



Recently the USSR supplied four power units to the Zarnowiec hydropower project it is helping to build in Poland. The photo shows a group of Polish and Soviet engineers in the station's control room.

Photo C.A.F.-TASS

AIR FRANCE OVER SIBERIA

Air France's wide-bodied Boeing-747 planes have begun a regular service from Paris to Tokyo and back, via Siberia. The new route is the result of talks between the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation and the French Civil Aviation Department held in 1981-1982 in Moscow and Paris.

Significantly, the French company was the first European always to get authorization to fly over Siberia.

In the first few months of its Trans-Siberian run Air France carried 3,398 passengers. Naturally enough, the route is popular with passengers, as indicated by the passenger flow,

with Paris-bound planes filled to 70 per cent capacity and to 62 per cent capacity on the Tokyo run.

In addition to the weekly Paris-Tokyo flights via Siberia, Air France also operates four Paris-Tokyo flights via the Arctic.

Trans-Siberian service passengers have their travelling time cut by four hours 20 minutes as compared with the Polar route, while the return route (Tokyo-Paris) flights offer a 2.5 hour gain.

The Trans-Siberian service offers first class, business class and economy class travel.

NIGERIAN COOP MEMBERS VISIT CENTROSOYUZ

A delegation from the Nigerian National Wholesale Cooperative Association visited the USSR between 16 and 23 November of this year. The delegation, which was led by the Association's President S. A. Fagbemi, spent a week in the Soviet Union during which they were acquainted with the operations of the Soviet consumer cooperative societies. They expressed especial interest in links between cooperatives and the state. They also held talks on the further strengthening of links with Centrosyuz and on the potential for expanding trade contacts between the two cooperative organizations.

In Moscow, the guests were received by Alexei Smirnov, Chairman of the Centrosyuz Board of Directors.

The two sides expressed their common view concerning the need to increase their joint contribution to intensify the activities of the International Cooperative Alliance in the interests of the struggle for peace and social progress being conducted by members of the cooperative movement.

Apart from Moscow, the delegation visited Turkmenia and Kazakhstan.

ELECTRONIC HELPERS

A short while ago, a ceremony was held for a handover of the 20th EC-1033 Soviet-built computer to the Czechoslovak side. At another ceremony, a new computer centre for the Czechoslovak Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production was unveiled in the town of Kelmak.

Soviet-built computers of the unified Ryad system made under the CMEA integration programme operate in different parts of Czechoslovakia, in transport, engineering, light industries and in the health services. Next year, supplies will start of the second-generation Ryad computers.

A 250-TIME INCREASE IN 25 YEARS

The port of Zhdanov, on the Sea of Azov, has direct links with more than 20 countries. It is often described as the "sea gates of the Donbas" for it transships cargo to and from this industrial area, one of the biggest in the country.

It was 25 years ago that Zhdanov docks celebrated the arrival of the first Bulgarian cargo vessel, the "Shipka", at the port. Since then, more than 600 Bulgarian ships have called here bringing different cargoes. The volume of deliveries of Soviet-made equipment to Bulgaria has gone up by 450 times. The metal shipped by the Zhdanov docks goes to the Bulgarian Lenin and Kramkovy metalurgical complexes—while the Donetsk coal field provides fuel for the Bulgarian "heat" and power stations of Varna and Devnya, and for other enterprises. In turn, there has been an increase in the amount of cargo handled by Bulgarian docks for Bulgaria to this country. It includes machines, plants, consumer items, vegetables and fruit.

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For ballet lovers

French will be heard more often from now on in the capital of Soviet Byelorussia, Minsk. Intourist has organized a special tour for French women who admire Soviet ballet. In Minsk they will meet young dancers from the Byelorussian

Intourist news

Open and Ballet Theatre, which rehearsals and practice dancing every day. The tour programme includes visits to the opera and ballet as well as to the circus, concerts of folk music and sight-seeing in the republic.

NINA RICCI IN MOSCOW



Nina Ricci, the world perfume company and fashion designer, recently mounted a grand dress rehearsal show of its 1983 fashions in front of an audience of designers from Moscow fashion houses and other experts from the clothing industry, not forgetting newsmen, of course.

Madame Sophie La Norey, the firm's director for exports to the USSR and other socialist countries, told our correspondents: "Our company is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. We are in a festive mood and our stay in Moscow has only added to it. Our table is to accentuate a woman's marvellous rather than use her as a fashion showpiece."

Martina AMAROVA
Photos by Yuri Sushkov